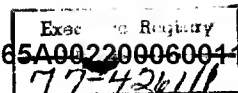


CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Approved For Release 2004/03/15 : CIA-RDP80M00165A002200060011-3
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR



13 May 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Robert J. Lipshutz
Counsel to the President
The White House

The attached draft has been
prepared by our General Counsel for
your consideration.

B. C. Evans
Executive Secretary

Attachment

Distribution:

0 - Addressee w/basic correspondence
✓ 1 - ER

(EXTENSIVE REGISTRY FILE)

W.H. House

D R A F T

Mr. Carlton W. Laird
City Manager
City of Bay City
Bay City, Michigan 48706

Dear Mr. Laird:

This is in response to your letter of April 26, 1977 to the President concerning CIA activities in this country.

As you know, the President, by his public statements and actions, has made clear his deep concern for human rights. Your expression of support for his policy on human rights is appreciated.

The President is deeply committed to the proposition that no agency of the United States Government shall violate basic human rights, whether in this country or abroad. At the same time, he is concerned that there are so many unfounded accusations of improper activities by United States intelligence agencies. The maintenance of an effective foreign intelligence system is essential to protecting United States interests and responsibilities in the world, which will continue to be challenged for the foreseeable future by strong and potentially hostile powers. The Central Intelligence Agency is the hub of our foreign intelligence system. Whatever questionable activities may have occurred in the past, the CIA and our other intelligence agencies are now governed by strict directives and guidelines to assure that they confine themselves to their authorized missions. There is also effective oversight to assure that, should they violate these guidelines, prompt corrective action can be taken and sanctions imposed on those at fault.

Thank you for your expression of concern. I am confident that as you observe the policies and actions of this administration in foreign affairs you will become convinced of its respect for human rights and the rule of law.

Sincerely,

Robert Lipshutz
Counsel to the President

STAT

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EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

Routing Slip

OGC

TO:		ACTION	INFO	DATE	INITIAL
1	DCI				
2	DDCI				
3	D/DCI/IC				
4	DDS&T				
5	DDI				
6	DDA				
7	DDO				
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9	GC	X			
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12	Compt				
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15	DTR				
16	Asst/DCI				
17	AO/DCI				
18	C/IPS				
19	DCI/SS				
20	D/EE0				
21					
22					
SUSPENSE		Date			

Remarks: Received the attached today. We are not going to make the "72-hour" deadline. Have someone let me know how long it will take and I will phone over. Please prepare a final letter for Mr. Lipshutz' signature for conveyance.

Executive Secretary

10 May 77
Date

STAT

WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

REFERRAL

To:

Hon. Stansfield Turner
Director
Central Intelligence Agency

Date: May 4, 1977

ACTION REQUESTED

☒ Draft reply for:
☒ President's signature.
☒ Undersigned's signature.

☐ Memorandum for use as enclosure to reply.

☐ Direct reply.

☐ Furnish information copy.

☐ Suitable acknowledgment or other appropriate handling.

☐ Furnish copy of reply, if any.

☐ For your information.

☐ For comment.

NOTE

Prompt action is essential.

If more than 72 hours' delay is encountered, please telephone the undersigned immediately, Code 1450.

Basic correspondence should be returned when draft reply, memorandum, or comment is requested.

REMARKS:

Description:

☒ Letter: ☐ Telegram: ☐ Other:

To: The Honorable James Carter
From: Carlton W. Laird, City Manager, City of Bay City, Michigan
Date: April 26, 1977
Subject: CIA should have no place in a democracy.

By direction of the President:

Robert Lipshutz
Counsel to the President

	UNCLASSIFIED		CONFIDENTIAL		SECRET
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CITY OF BAY

LAIR W. LAIRD

April 26, 1977

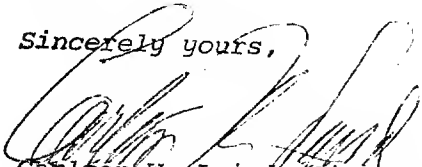
April 26, 1977

The Honorable James Carter
President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Carter:

I have written previously expressing my support for your concern with human rights. I am enclosing copy of excerpts from two publications that fairly well document the violations of human rights in this country by the CIA. I feel that we must protect human rights in this country as well, since our actions do speak louder than words. In my opinion, there is no higher priority than to remove this uncalled for agency. Its actions have been sufficiently documented and it should have no place in a democracy.

Sincerely yours,


Carlton W. Laird, City Manager
CITY OF BAY CITY, MICHIGAN

cl:vm
enc.

Bribery and Human Rights

"People are never more insecure than when they become obsessed with their fears at the expense of their dreams...."

THE editor and the star reporter of *The Washington Post*, Ben Bradlee and Bob Woodward, were recently called by President Carter for a private discussion. The President had learned from White House aides that the *Post* was preparing to publish a story revealing that the CIA had been making secret payments, amounting to millions of dollars, to heads of foreign governments. Of particular concern to the President was the effect of such a disclosure on the then imminent visit of Secretary of State Cyrus Vance to Jordan for the purpose of holding key discussions with King Hussein. Since the king had been a recipient of the secret payments, the President feared that Vance's mission would be severely compromised by the disclosure.

Rather than make a direct request to kill the story, the President wanted to leave the decision to publish up to *The Washington Post*. In the event the *Post* decided to run the story, however, the President expressed the hope that publication would be delayed until after the meeting with King Hussein.

The *Post* decided to publish. President Carter then issued a statement deploring the failure of the media to respect confidentiality on sensitive government matters. He said that the disclosures were damaging to the foreign policy of the United States. Moreover, he defended the secret payments as "legitimate and proper" in the light of national-security considerations.

Two additional questions of public policy are posed by this incident. One concerns the propriety of the disclosures about the CIA by the press. The second concerns the moral and historical issues raised by the secret CIA payments.

On the first issue: *The Washington Post* did what it is supposed to do. Anyone who believes that a free press should not report to the American people on something as startling or outrageous as undercover payments to officials of other governments betrays a basic misunderstanding of what the press in a free society is all about. The secret payments are not chargeable to Jimmy Carter, since they were made before he came to office; but it is surprising nonetheless that he appears to be more concerned about the leaks than about the bribes. It was not *The Washington Post* that made the secret payments; it was the government itself. If the United States was embarrassed by the disclosures, the President should put the blame on the bribers—not on the press. Even if it were true that the main problem was caused by the disclosure and not the deed, the government would still have only itself to blame—for thinking that anything as reprehensible as making secret payments

ments to heads of state would not blow out into the open sooner or later.

The President came to office on a high moral platform. A defense of undercover payments is hardly the way to build on that platform. Nor does the President strengthen himself or his nation by invoking national security as justification for corrupt practices. If it is proper for the United States to commit a breach in the name of national security, why is it not proper for the Soviet Union or Uganda to justify violations of human rights on the same grounds? The President deserves full credit for championing the cause of human rights in the world; but if he takes the position that national security is an acceptable excuse for secret payoffs, why is it not an acceptable excuse for the denial of human rights?

The easiest way for a nation to decrease itself is to make national security the highest value. Indeed, people are never more insecure than when they become obsessed with their fears at the expense of their dreams, or when the ability to fight becomes more important than the things worth fighting for.

IT HAS been said, in defense of the secret payments by the CIA, that there is very little difference between allocating money publicly through our foreign-aid program and hiding money under the table to heads of state. The trouble with this argument is that a basic distinction must be made between public payments to governments and secret payments to individuals. A public payment to a government is within the law. A secret payment to an individual is outside the law. Money given secretly to an individual can be used for personal purposes. The Japanese government was experienced a major crisis because of Lockheed's secret payments to officials. Why do such payments become "proper" just because an undercover U.S. agency does the paying? If there is nothing improper about international bribery, why does the U.S. Department of Justice now investigate payments by the South Korean government to members of the United States Congress? Is law something that can be expanded or contracted to meet a given situation?

Things have to be called by their right names. A secret payment to an individual is against the law. The CIA has been engaged in bribery. There is no way under the Constitution to use public funds in this manner. What is worse is the fact that the President of the United States has defended the practice.

It is possible that the President was misled and that he acted hastily. If so, it is too late to put things in order. The President should take the United States out of the business not just of bribery but of subversion, assassination, and all the other covert operations that do more violence to our history than harm to our adversaries. President Carter's agenda for America is too important to be jeopardized by a defense of the kind of tactics.

The Washington Spectator®

and

BETWEEN THE LINES

445-160X

April 15, 1977

Tristram Coffin, Editor © 1977 The Washington Spectator, Inc.

Volume 3, No. 7

CIA, the Hidden Trap

Like a steel trap hidden among the fallen leaves, a mechanism exists that could convert the US into a tight dictatorship. It is the CIA, which *The Nation* describes as "a tool for domestic subversion." The Church committee found that the intelligence apparatus repeatedly violated the "First Amendment rights of American citizens," and the Association of the Bar of New York states that many CIA operations were "patently unconstitutional."

A danger is that President Carter, with the best of intentions, will be manipulated into becoming an apologist for the agency on the grounds of "national security." Examples:

- A federal grand jury has been investigating former CIA director Richard Helms for alleged perjury to Congress. President Carter was asked at a news conference whether he would supply the grand jury with CIA documents. Instead of saying, "Yes, justice must be served," Carter said his decision would be based on whether the documents "affect our national security." The documents involve US intervention in Chile.

- The CIA director, Admiral Stansfield Turner, suggests criminal penalties for airing "sensitive information." This raises the specter of the Government using "national security" as an excuse to hide its own dirty linen and jail investigative reporters or conscientious civil servants who reveal mistakes. Almost any information can be stamped "sensitive" to hide evils.

President Carter's response was that he would "minimize the use of criminal penalties."

- The President told the same news conference, "I think that the Church committee has not found any evidence that the US was involved in the overthrow of the Allende Government in Chile." This is not true, and indicates that Carter has been poorly briefed by intelligence officers.

The Carter Challenges

This is third of a series on problems faced by President Carter. The first two dealt with energy and the "military-industrial complex." A later newsletter will present the crisis of food and agriculture.

CONTROL OF POWER IN THE CIA—What the President may not know is that the CIA is willing to operate illegally and has control of powerful instruments—thugs to assassinate and rob, secret armed forces (the *Miami Herald* reports the CIA maintained "the third largest navy in the Western hemisphere" near Miami), funds with which to bribe politicians and the media, and tools for mass propaganda. Its work is protected by secrecy and an agreement with the Justice Department not to prosecute employees engaged in illicit operations for the CIA. It has almost unlimited funds and access to military supplies.

According to the Senate committee the CIA has opened nearly 250,000 first-class letters, set up a computerized index of nearly 1.5 million names, spied on more than 100 peace and other protest groups in America, and kept voluminous files on 7,200 citizens. By private report, the CIA was involved in "elimination" projects within the US. ("Elimination" is the intelligence word for murder.)

The CIA is not under any specific control, or at least not when the Church committee was investigating. The so-called "Forty Committee," created to oversee the agency, approved only a "small fraction" of CIA covert jobs.

Checks and Balances Fail

"The constitutional system of checks and balances has not adequately controlled intelligence activities. Until recently the executive branch has neither determined the scope of permissible activities nor established procedures for supervising intelligence activities. Congress has failed to exercise sufficient oversight, seldom questioning the use to which its appropriations were being put."

"The First Amendment protects the right of Americans to engage in free and open discussions and to associate with persons of their choosing. Intelligence agencies have, on occasion, expressly attempted to interfere with those rights. . . . The Government's surveillance activities in the aggregate . . . tend, as the committee concludes, to deter the exercise of First Amendment rights by American citizens . . ."

—Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Activities

The agency has threatened Congressmen who sought to expose its illegal operations. Chairman Otis Pike of the Select Committee on Intelligence told the House of threats made against him. The CIA counsel allegedly told the committee chief of staff, "Pike will pay for this, you wait and see. I am serious. There will be political retaliation for this. . . . We will destroy him for this [the committee report]."

THE PRESIDENT'S RESPONSIBILITY—When Carter came to the White House, he seemed determined to bring the agency under control and wipe out some of its operations. This was indicated when he named Theodore Sorensen as director, for Sorensen shared President Kennedy's dismay and anger with the CIA after the Bay of Pigs. Sorensen in June 1961 wrote National Security Action Memorandum 65; in effect, it closed down covert operations.

But Carter was startled by the power of the CIA lobby which forced Sorensen to withdraw. He has now backed away. He tried to persuade the *Washington Post* not to put its information

that King Hussein of Jordan received secret CIA funds. He told reporters, "I have not found anything illegal or improper" in what the *Times* called "the more controversial activities of the agency."

Again, there is a chance the President is not being correctly informed, for CIA files have a report last year by then Director William E. Colby admitting that "the agency engaged in illegal domestic spying on American citizens" and at least three burglaries. (*Los Angeles Times*)

The Failure of Intelligence

"The basic thrust of our report is that despite the billions of dollars expended on it, despite the genius of the scientists who work in our intelligence community and the dedication and occasional bravery of the men working within our intelligence community, despite its occasional small successes, in every single instance in which we compared what our intelligence community was predicting with what really happened, *our intelligence community failed.*"

"If the CIA and the State Department could provide, digest and analyze objective intelligence as well as they can plant stories in the media, lead the Congress around, and put the secret stamp on their embarrassments, horrors and failures, we could all sleep better at night."

—Rep. Otis G. Pike, Chairman, House Intelligence Committee

A LOOK AT THE RECORD—The CIA has been engaged in such "illegal" or "improper" operations as:

- "The CIA hired two mobsters, Sam Giancana and Johnny Rosselli, to murder Cuban Premier Fidel Castro, provided them with lethal poison for that purpose, and offered \$150,000 for the job." (*The American Police State* by David Wise)

- The CIA built up a cache of lethal chemicals and "in direct defiance of a Presidential order . . . failed to destroy its stocks of deadly poisons, including cobra venom and enough shellfish toxin to kill 55,000 people." (*The American Police State*)

- The CIA "helped engineer" or was close to individuals mixed up in assassination plots against: President Gamel Abdul Nasser in the 1950s; Rafael Trujillo of the Dominican Republic, gunned down in May 1961; South Vietnam's President Ngo Dinh Diem, shot in 1963; "Papa Doc" Duvalier of Haiti whose palace was bombed in 1963. (*Newsweek*)

- Allen Dulles and his assistant, Richard Bissell, set up "a project for research into developing means for overthrowing foreign political leaders, including a capability to perform assassinations," according to the Senate study. Chicago-based Mafia figures were to be used in this project known as ZR/RIFLE.

- The CIA, perhaps unwittingly, served as a cover for a drug smuggling operation. A CIA-backed Chinese Nationalist Army unit in Burma raised opium poppies, transported opium in armed caravans to Thailand where it was converted into morphine and heroin. The product was then smuggled out, sometimes in CIA-controlled planes.

A TIME FOR QUESTIONS—The time has come to ask basic questions. Of what value are covert operations?

In the CIA's own mythology, its most successful covert operation was the overthrow of Premier Mohammed Mossadegh of Iran and raising the Shah to power in 1953.

According to semi-official versions, there was a great derring-do led by Kermit Roosevelt, son of the Rough Rider; its aim was to keep the Soviet Union from grabbing Iran's oil reserves with the help of the Tudeh (Communist-leaning) party.

The facts are less heroic. The chief mover was not Roosevelt but a Polish émigré. The Tudeh Party was too small and impotent to be a major factor. The USSR was not about to tangle with the US over Iran's oil. The real reason was Mossadegh nationalized the Anglo-Iranian Oil Co. and took over the large Abadan refinery on the Persian Gulf. When the smoke cleared, the real winners were five American oil giants—Gulf, Standard Oil of New Jersey, Standard Oil of California, Texaco and Mobil. In the new shuffle they obtained 40% of the Iranian oil, while Anglo-Iranian's share was pared down to 10%.

Today the Shah, pushed into power by the US, given uncoupled millions through the CIA, is the leading promoter of higher crude oil prices for which Americans pay at the gas pump. These extra costs have gone to buy the \$1 billion in arms Iran has ordered from the US since 1972. The winner has been the "military-industrial complex."

In 1954, the CIA engineered a coup against Guatemalan President Jacobo Arbenz Guzman, on the ground that his regime had many Communists in it. Actually, Arbenz allied with the US in the UN and was generally cooperative. However, he threatened to expropriate lands belonging to the United Fruit Co.

Another CIA feat was a massive effort to prevent Communists from winning elections in Italy. Money was poured in and secret deals made to keep the Christian Democrats in power. To what avail? The Communist Party is today the second largest in Italy, thanks to the corruption and inefficiency of the Christian Democrats; it is also the most persistent and effective Communist critic of Moscow.

Italian journalist Oriana Fallaci told CIA Director Colby, during an interview, "I remind you that it is you Americans who throw countries into the arms of the Communists always. It is you who buy and corrupt and protect all the fascists in the world. America, Mr. Colby, is the biggest manufacturer of Communists in the world." (*London Sunday Times*)

THE INTELLIGENCE GATHERING—No one doubts the importance of having accurate knowledge of what is happening around the world and in trouble areas. The question is, how valuable is CIA's intelligence?

The record is spotty. As the House Intelligence Committee found, much of the intelligence is faulty and weak. And even when the intelligence was exceptionally accurate, officials have either not seen it or failed to act on it. Examples:

- The CIA correctly predicted that China would enter the Korean War if General MacArthur moved beyond the 38th parallel. MacArthur said the CIA didn't know what it was talking about and, in effect, dared President Truman to stop him. Truman backed down, and US troops were caught in a trap at Unsan.

- In Vietnam, the military repeatedly refused to accept the CIA's estimates of enemy strength. In *Harper's*, former CIA

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agent Sam Adams tells how his FBI file of 600 pages was correct, was ridiculed by Army authorities.

CONTROLS ON THE CIA—Are there strong enough controls on the CIA? Since the agency's activities are veiled in secrecy and Congress has refused to break through the mesh, the CIA could become the tool either of the President or of extremists within the agency itself.

A former CIA officer, Harry Rosizke, using Angola as an example, showed how the agency has become the President's secret military establishment, and makes war without benefit of Congress. He wrote in the *Washington Post*: "The President and the Secretary of State [Kissinger] were convinced that the Congress would not agree with their Angolan policy and would not supply the required funds. Secret funds provided the way out. The use of covert actions, not to achieve a foreign purpose in secret but to evade Congressional scrutiny, degrades the covert instrument into a domestic political tool."

Lack of control over the CIA was also shown when the US bombed Indonesia in 1958 in the hope of overthrowing Sukarno and again when we launched a "secret war" against Laos in the 1960s. (The Philippine Foreign Affairs Minister told me that US planes bound for Indonesia flew from air bases in his country, and he had protested to Washington.)

To Bribe or Not to Bribe

"The *New York Times* has come out two-square for bribery. The fact that it did so 'uneasily' justifies the qualification that the paper was only demi-forthright in its statement that 'qualified discretion [to bribe] is preferable to unqualified morality.' In the wake of recent allegations that the CIA has for years kept King Hussein, Willy Brandt, the President of Venezuela, the ex-President of Chile, among others, on its secret payroll, the *Times* comes out for a complicated policy that might be called Pragmatic Bribery in Lieu of War, to be supervised by the President himself, complete with 'guidelines' . . .

"All one needs to do, to be persuaded of the falseness of the argument, is to reverse the coin, so to speak, and imagine the bribing intervention of a foreign country in the politics of the US. If any of our friends or adversaries decided that some 'discreet' bribery of candidate X was needed to beat the troublesome candidate Y, would the *Times* then smugly conclude that the bribery was justified because 'in a volatile world, the need for flexibility is great'?"

—*The Nation*

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE—The lack of control is glaring in foreign intelligence groups which are an adjunct of CIA, like the Korean KCIA and the Iranian SAVAK. They have been funded, trained, equipped and directed through the CIA, and are instruments of tyranny for President Park Chung Hee and the Shah. Tad Szulc writes in the *New York Times Magazine*, "In its 16 years of existence, the Korean intelligence agency has earned above all a reputation as one of the most brutal and venal security services in the world."

SECRECY AND THE CIA—Intelligence operations are hidden by the alibi of "national security." Some might better be in the open. Why wasn't the money for King Hussein put in the foreign aid bill and voted upon by Congress, instead of slipped under the table by the CIA?

secret payments not only subvert a democracy but are in violation of the Constitution: "No money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time." (Article I, Section 8)

OUR RECOMMENDATIONS—Some form of intelligence is needed. But it should be tightly controlled.

- The President and/or Congress shall issue a definition of "national security" as a guideline. Obviously, one would not excuse overthrowing the elected president of Chile to please a campaign contributor (ITT) or bombing Indonesia for the benefit of rubber and oil multinationals.

- Covert operations shall be forbidden except during war-time. This is specified in the "Omnibus Intelligence Community Reorganization and Reform Bill" introduced by Rep. Ronald V. Dellums (D-Cal.), a member of the Intelligence and Armed Services Committees.

- No covert operations within the US or subversion of US citizens will be allowed.

- No funds shall be used to pay American communists, clergymen, public officers or educators, or to subsidize in any way US media or public groups.

- The CIA shall not subsidize emigré groups or make contracts with persons having criminal records.

- All funds for intelligence operations by foreign governments cooperating with the US shall be voted by Congress in specific appropriation bills, and no funds shall be used to pay foreign leaders for their personal use.

- The CIA shall be required to set up a system of internal checks, so the director will be informed of ongoing operations and held accountable.

If the Government expects its citizens and other nations to be sane and moral, it must itself show intelligent and moral leadership. Justice Louis Brandeis said a half-century ago:

"Our government is the potent, the omnipotent teacher. For good or ill, it teaches the whole people by its example. Crime is contagious. If the government becomes a law-breaker, it breeds contempt for law; it invites every man to become a law unto himself; it invites anarchy. . . ."

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FYI: Items of Interest from the Spectator Files

- Based on figures from the **Federal Energy Administration**, Environmental Action says that a returnable beverage system would have "saved at least 30 to 50 billion cubic feet of natural gas last year." This would "have saved considerably more energy than closing schools for thousands of children and closing factories which put over a million people out of work."

- A gadget that could sell for \$10 would save between 400,000 and 1 million barrels of oil *every day*. This is a dumper in the flue which closes when the furnace is not running. In Germany it is standard equipment, and the savings run from 16 to 30 percent. You can't buy one in this country, although one was patented here 11 years ago. Source: Senate Anti-Trust Subcommittee.

- Jacques Cousteau believes the answer to the energy crisis is in the sea. He argues: "The main source of solar energy is in the ocean. Two-thirds of all the solar energy on earth falls into the ocean. The currents concentrate the heat in particular places like the Florida strait, around Japan and the equatorial currents." This source, he believes, could provide four-fifths of the world's energy by the year 2000.

- Brazil plans to produce 20% of its motor fuel needs from natural sources, by fermentation of sugar cane and manioc from less than 2% of the country's land area. Presently, cars modified to run on 95% ethanol and 5% water are touring Brazil to prove that the mixture is as effective as gasoline.

- Within five years, the cost of an average home in the US will be \$78,000, and well out of reach of most Americans. The current average price today is \$48,000, and families earning \$20,000 or more are the only ones in the market. Source: Harvard-MIT Joint Center for Urban Studies. Co-author Bernard Friedman states, "The cost squeeze on middle-income families is replacing the slum as the major problem in housing in this country."

- The major Soviet threat to the West is not missiles or armies, but the Soviet-bloc debt to Western banks. By 1980, this will reach \$100 billion. The banks apparently are looking to Western governments to bail them out. Source: a study, still unpublished, by economist Richard Portes of London University.

- The US Navy and its allies have three times the tonnage of the Soviet Navy and its allies, according to newly released Pentagon studies. The US team has twice the number of ships of

1,000 tons or more. Source: Rep. Les Aspin (D-N.J.), a member of the House Armed Services Committee.

- The country with the worst human rights record in the world is—Iran. Source: Amnesty International. It is reported by the British *Guardian*.

- Church groups are looking for President Carter to make good on his human rights stand by stopping a reign of terror by Nicaragua's dictator, General Somoza, a West Point graduate and beneficiary of US military aid.

- The total military costs tucked away in President Ford's 1978 budget, which President Carter has modified somewhat, is \$170.3 billion. This is the conclusion of James Fay, a political science professor at California State University. He has carefully checked "a number of diverse budget items where military costs are frequently squirreled away. For example, Prof. Fay discovered that the cost of retirement pay for civilian employees of the Defense Department and Veterans Administration, an estimated \$5.6 billion, was not listed in the Pentagon budget. Source: *The Nation*.

Solar Information Numbers

The Solar Heating and Cooling Information Centers tells us that the correct toll-free number to call is 800-523-2929, or, in Pennsylvania, 800-462-4929. The address is PO Box 1607, Rockville, Md. 20850.

- Sen. James Abourezk (D-S.D.) has introduced a bill to stop the buying up of farms by huge conglomerate corporations. It would prohibit corporations with \$3 million in farm assets from engaging in farming. It requires divestiture within 5 years for operations now over the \$3 million limit. The idea is to maintain the family farm, the most productive unit known. Source: the *Congressional Record*.

- Educational Facilities Laboratories in New York proposes that unused school buildings be converted into apartments for the elderly. The *Christian Science Monitor* comments: "Literally thousands of school buildings have been abandoned in recent years. . . . One argument for converting school buildings into apartments is that citizens who buy and paid for schools when they were younger should be allowed to use those buildings when they're no longer needed for children."

ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

- **CIA, the Hidden Trap**

Intelligence agency controls powerful tools—page 1

A Congressional investigator is threatened—page 1

Covert activities, what is their value?—page 2

Recommendations for reform listed—page 3

- **For Your Information**

How to save 30 billion cubic feet of natural gas—page 4

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